

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A technique is disclosed for facilitating communications between a network node
5 and a Head End of an access network. The access network includes a plurality of nodes
which communicate with the Head End via at least one upstream channel and at least one
downstream channel. The Head End is configured to monitor channel conditions on
selected channels of the access network. The Head End is also configured to modify or
change the modulation profile used on a selected channel in response to detecting a change
10 in conditions on that particular channel. If the Head End detects that the channel
conditions have deteriorated, the Head End may change the modulation profile on the
selected channel to one which is better suited for transmitting data on the channel given
the current channel conditions. If the Head End detects that the channel conditions have
improved, the Head End may change the modulation profile on the selected channel to one
15 which provides for faster data transmission on the selected channel.